







Anthropology (ANTH) 402

Ethnographic Research Methods (Revision 4)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online  . Delivered via Brightspace.
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Social Science
Prerequisites:	ANTH 275 and one 300-level sociocultural anthropology course or consent of the professor.
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	ANTH 402 is not available for challenge.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

This is a senior-level course in anthropological research methods that reviews issues in ethnographic research. The focus is on gaining skills and practice in doing ethnographic research. The course involves learning about research methods and then applying them to a subject of each student's interest. You will gain practical experience in defining a research problem, doing background literature research, writing a research proposal, and carrying out and presenting a small independent field project. This course allows the opportunity to learn through experience and complements **Anthropology 401: Ethnography, the Writing of Culture**.

Objectives

- Understand the processes of ethnographic research and research design in ethnography
- Understand the implications of methodological choices and their relationship to research questions and settings
- Benefit from practical experience with ethics applications, ethnographic field methods, and the process of creating a research proposal

Outline

The course consists of the following units:

- Unit 1: Introduction and the Nature of Ethnographic Research
- Unit 2: Ethnography as Qualitative Research
- Unit 3: Defining a Research Problem or Question
- Unit 4: Research Design—Matching Methods, Locale, and Time Frame
- Unit 5: Ethics in Human Research
- Unit 6: Documentary Research and Literature Review
- Unit 7: Research Techniques—Participant Observation and Interviewing
- Unit 8: Visual Methods—Ethnographic Film, Video, and Photography in Ethnography

- Unit 9: Organizing Data and Data Analysis
- Unit 10: Research Proposals and Project Design

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ANTH 402, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) on each of the assignments. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Essay on Ethnographic Research Methods	20%
Assignment 2: Statement of Research Area	5%
Assignment 3: Ethics Form for Field Research Project (for the field assignment)	5%
Assignment 4: Annotated Bibliography	15%
Assignment 5: Field Research Assignment	25%
Assignment 6: Research Proposal with Literature Review and Ethics Form	30%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

Marshall, Catherine, and Gretchen B. Rossman. *Designing Qualitative Research*. 7th ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2022.

Physical course materials

The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:





Watson, C. W., ed. *Being There: Fieldwork in Anthropology*. London, Sterling, VA: Pluto Press, 1999.

Ellen, R. F., ed. *Ethnographic Research: A Guide to General Conduct*. London: Academic Press, 1987.

Other Materials

All other materials are available online.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services at AU](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 4, March 4, 2024

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View [previous revision](#) 